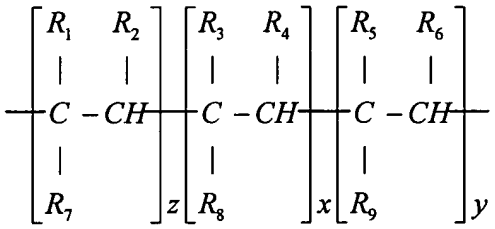
AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraphs.

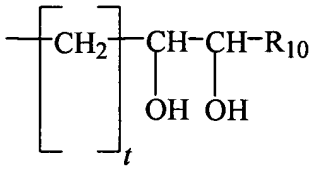
On page 9, in the paragraph beginning on line 7:

Further as noted above, the illustrative oligomer or polymer can have a nonionic surfactant group and preferably has a molecular structure such as:

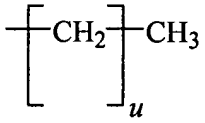


in which R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6 = H or CH_3

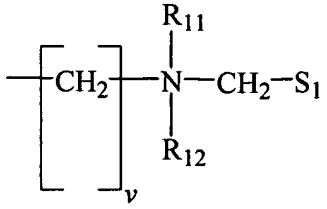
R_7 is



R_8 is



R_9 is

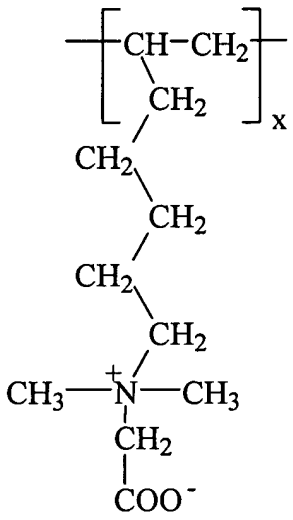


and in which, R_{10}, R_{11}, R_{12} = H or CH_3, t = 1 to 16, u = 6 to 12, v = 1 to 18, ~~w = 1 to 12~~ S_1 = CO_2^- or $SO_3^=$, and x + y + z = 3 to 300,000. In such instances, a preferred illustrative

embodiment is achieved when t = 12 to 16, u = 6 to 12, v = 12 to 18, ~~w = 1 to 3,~~ and x = 0 to 10,000, y = 2 to 300,000 and z = 0 to 10,000.

On page 12, in the paragraph beginning on line 13:

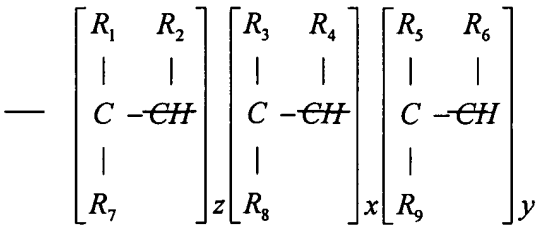
In accordance with one illustrative embodiment of the claimed subject matter, a sufficient quantity of at least one surfactant-oligomeric or surfactant-polymeric compound that is soluble in an aqueous salt solution is employed to affect the desired viscosity. In the claimed subject matter, the molecules of the surfactant-oligomeric or surfactant-polymeric compound have a hydrophobic oligomeric or polymeric backbone made preferably from the oligomerization or polymerization of alkene and/or alkyne groups. As the term is used herein, "thickener" and surfactant-oligomeric or surfactant-polymeric compound are used interchangeably and are intended to mean the compounds substantially described and claimed herein. The thickener of the claimed subject matter also includes chemical functional groups that are structurally similar to prior art viscoelastic surfactants and therefore these molecules exhibit similar chemical characteristics of prior art viscoelastic surfactants. Thus the hydrophobic backbone is chemically linked to and thus rendered at least in part hydrophilic by the presence of these chemical functional groups. One such illustrative compound is the product of the oligomerization reaction of a monomer such as the sodium salt of N-N-dimethyl-N-methylcarboxylate-N-1-hepten-7-ammonium chloride to give the sodium salt of oligo-(1-hepten-7-quaternary-ammonio-N-N-dimethyl-N-me- thylcarboxylate). The resulting oligomer is believed to have the simplified structure as indicated below ~~in the acid form rather than the sodium salt form~~:



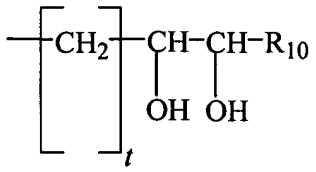
in which x will have a value from about 2 to several hundred thousand, preferably from about 2 to several dozen. The monomer may be prepared, for example, by the reaction of N-hexadecyl-N,N-dimethylamine with chloroacetic acid to produce N-hexadecyl-N-methylcarboxylic acid-N,N-dimethylammonium chloride. Upon neutralization with sodium hydroxide, the final product is the zwitterionic betaine which is the sodium salt of N-hexadecyl-N-carboxymethyl-N,N-dimethylammonium chloride--it has a negative charge on the carboxyl group and the sodium cation associated with it as a counter ion, and a positive charge on the quaternary amine group and the chloride anion associated with it as a counter ion. Alternatively, the sodium and chloride counter ions may be separated therefrom, leaving the negatively charged carboxyl group and the positively charged quaternary amine group as counter ions for each other.

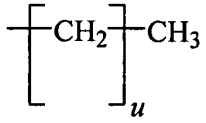
On page 23, in the paragraph beginning on line 12:

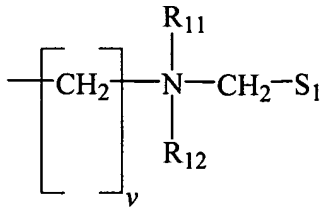
Further as noted above, the illustrative oligomer or polymer can have a nonionic surfactant group and preferably has a molecular structure such as:



in which R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6 = H or CH_3

R_7 is 

R_8 is 

R_9 is 

and in which, R_{10}, R_{11}, R_{12} = H or CH_3, t = 1 to 16, u = 6 to 12, v = 1 to 18, ~~w = 1 to 12~~ S_1 = CO_2^- or $SO_3^=$, and x + y + z = 3 to 300,000. In such instances, a preferred illustrative embodiment is achieved when t = 12 to 16, u = 6 to 12, v = 12 to 18, ~~w = 1 to 3,~~ and x = 0 to 10,000, y = 2 to 300,000 and z = 0 to 10,000.